

passed today by passing a \$7,500 refundable tax credit to allow people a little bit more flexibility to get into that first home.

When people said, I need some help getting counseling to find out how I avoid foreclosure, we put money into counseling agencies to help people help themselves. When you go to the people who are really hurting, you get the right answers. And I'm just as proud as you are, Mr. MEEK, for voting for this piece of legislation this afternoon. It may be the most important housing legislative package that this House and this Congress has passed in the past several years. And I'm just as proud of where the genesis of the ideas came from.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Very good. Very good. I think that your comments were very appropriate and definitely will give the kind of motivation for bills like it to come to the floor. And it's going to be about solutions, mayors, city council people, individuals back home, everyone along the line of elected officials likes to see bills like this because that is going to help give the backbone to their community that they need.

No one, no Members want to see signs of foreclosure, for sale, quick sales, all of these things. You have folks that are holding on to their mortgage. I have constituents who come to me and say, Kendrick, I bought my condo at \$600,000, \$500,000 or \$300,000 and someone had to carry out a quick sale within our building, and my property value went down. And I have already lost. And I am holding the flag up, and I'm doing all the things I have to do. And I didn't get into an interest-only loan. I went into a conventional. But I'm suffering from that. So everyone, it is almost like folks are getting pulled down. This bill today is helping to shore up that housing market, even rental housing in urban and rural areas.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, it's always an honor to come to the floor to address the House. I want to thank the Democratic leadership for providing us with this hour once again. And we look forward to coming back in the future.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of important district business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. FOXX) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WELLER of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, July 30.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, July 30.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today and July 24.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SCALISE, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 3295. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, shall appoint administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on July 22, 2008 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 3564. To amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Administrative Conference of the United States through fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3985. To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to register a person providing transportation by an over-the-road bus as a motor carrier of passengers only if the person is willing and able to comply with certain accessibility requirements in addition to other existing requirements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4289. To name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as the "Euripides Rubio Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, July 24, 2008, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7718. A letter from the Director Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, Department of

Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Designation of Biobased Items for Federal Procurement (RIN: 0503-AA30) received July 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7719. A letter from the Regulatory Review Group Director, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulatory Streamlining of the Farm Service Agency's Direct Farm Loan Programs (RIN: 0560-AF60) received February 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7720. A letter from the Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) and Program Acquisition Unit Cost metrics for the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter Program have exceeded the 25 percent critical cost growth threshold, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7721. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement Vice Admiral Evan M. Chanik, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7722. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Joseph F. Weber, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7723. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Brigadier General Harold W. Moulton II, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of brigadier general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7724. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Brigadier General Gregory A. Feest, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of major general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7725. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of the enclosed list of officers to wear the insignia of the next higher grade in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7726. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Defense, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7727. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7788] received July 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7728. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Devices; Medical Device Reporting; Baseline Reports [Docket No. FDA-2008-N-0310] received July 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7729. A letter from the Deputy Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the